

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated November 6, 2008. Claims 1 to 20 are in the application, with Claims 11 to 15 and 17 to 20 being withdrawn from consideration. Of the claims presented for examination, Claims 1 and 16 are independent. Claims 1, 9, 10 and 16 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9, 10 and 16 were objected to for alleged informalities. Regarding Claims 1 and 16, the underlined portions from the January 23, 2008 Amendment no longer appear as underlined in this Amendment. Regarding Claims 9 and 10, these claims have been amended relative to the January 23, 2008 Amendment, and include the changes from the July 21, 2008 Amendment. In addition, “withdrawn” status identifiers have been provided for Claims 19 and 20. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of Claims 1, 9, 10 and 16 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4 to 7 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,084,604 (Moriyama); Claims 3 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Moriyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,328,403 (Iwasaki); and Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Moriyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,396 (Seto). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 as amended generally concerns a recording apparatus that uses an ink-ejecting recording head and performs recording by ejecting black ink and at least one color ink onto a recording medium from the recording head. The apparatus includes extraction means for extracting, on the basis of recording data, at least one type of pixels, selected from (1) black adjacent pixels composed of pixels whose adjacent pixels

are recorded with black ink, and (2) color adjacent pixels that include pixels whose adjacent pixels are recorded with color ink, from among the pixels constituting a black image. The apparatus further includes data creating means for creating data that corresponds to color ink so that recording with black ink and with color ink applied (or added) according to a given ratio is done, on the black adjacent pixels or the color adjacent pixels extracted by the extraction means. In addition, the apparatus includes recording control means for performing recording with the recording head on the basis of the recording data and the data created by the data creating means. The black image is recorded by superposing an image composed of pixels formed by black ink and an image based on the data corresponding to color ink created by the data creating means.

Thus, among its many features, Claim 1 provides that the black image is recorded by superposing an image composed of pixels formed by black ink and an image based on the created data corresponding to color ink. The applied references of Moriyama, Iwasaki and Seto are not seen to disclose or suggest at least this feature.

As understood by Applicants, Moriyama discloses a method where when a color image is present at the position adjacent to a black image, a first portion of the black image (or first black image portion) is formed of black dots made by mixing the plurality of color inks, and is adjacent to the color image. Further, a second black image portion other than the first black image portion is formed by means of pixels of black ink and pixels of at least two of the plurality of color inks. See Moriyama, Claim 16. For the second black image portion, a mixing ratio of the dots of the black ink to the dots formed by mixing the color inks is gradually increased as the position is separated away from the first black image portion. See Moriyama, Claim 17.

As such, Moriyama is seen to gradually increase a mixing ratio of the dots of the black ink to the dots formed by mixing the color inks. However, the pixels of black ink and the pixels of color ink in Moriyama are seen to be recorded independently and separately.

As such, Moriyama is not seen to disclose the superposing of image data, much less that a black image is recorded by superposing an image composed of pixels formed by black ink and an image based on created data corresponding to color ink.

In addition, Iwasaki and Seto have been reviewed and are not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Moriyama. In particular, Iwasaki and Seto are not seen to disclose or suggest that a black image is recorded by superposing an image composed of pixels formed by black ink and an image based on created data corresponding to color ink.

Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references.

In addition, independent Claim 16 is a method claim which generally corresponds to apparatus Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 16 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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